

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02685 290719Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----290851Z 019753 /13

R 290650Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1799  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2685

EXDIS

FOR AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR IR SA RH  
SUBJ: IRANIAN INTEREST RE RHODESIA

REF A. TEHRAN 2493 B. STATE 065348

1. AT AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH ON MARCH 28 I CONVEYED THE  
SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL B TO HIM IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION HE  
HAD RAISED WITH US AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A. THE SHAH  
SAID "WE CARE NOTHING FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO IAN SMITH, BUT  
WHY NOT A REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE WHO CAN LEGITIMATELY SPEAK  
FOR THE BLACK PEOPLE OF RHODESIA?" I REPEATED OUR BELIEF  
THAT ALL NATIONALIST LEADERS MUST BE INVOLVED IF ANY AGREEMENT  
ON TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IS TO BE LASTING. THE SHAH  
DID NOT ARGUE FURTHER BUT DID SAY THAT IF SOMETHING DOESN'T  
HAPPEN SOON THE SOVIETS WILL MOVE IN AS THEY DID IN  
ANGOLA AND THE WEST WILL HAVE LOST ANOTHER COUNTRY IN  
AFRICA. HE HOPED THAT SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE MIGHT COME  
OUT OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT  
TO THE AREA BUT DID NOT SEEM VERY OPTIMISTIC. "YOU KNOW,"

SECRET

SECRET

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HE SAID, "THE BRITISH ARE NOT WILLING TO PUT TROOPS INTO  
THE AREA, AND THIS MAY BE WHAT IS REQUIRED IF PROGRESS IS  
TO BE ACHIEVED." "OF COURSE," HE ADDED, "YOU WILL PROBABLY  
FOLLOW THE SAME POLICY THAT YOU FOLLOWED IN ANGOLA AND YOU  
SEE WHAT HAPPENED THERE."

MIKLOS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, SELFDETERMINATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TEHRAN02685  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRANIAN INTEREST RE RHODESIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IR, SA, RH, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009